

Chairman and Members of the Committee,

My name is Megan Langley, and I am writing today in strong opposition to HB 1255. I am a lifelong resident of North Dakota, and I know firsthand the vital role that Prairie Public plays in our communities—especially in rural areas like mine.

For more than 60 years, Prairie Public has provided educational programming, news coverage, and cultural storytelling that would not otherwise be accessible to many North Dakotans. For families in rural communities, Prairie Public is often the only source of high-quality, free educational content. Programs like *PBS Kids* help prepare young children for school, while in-depth reporting from *PBS NewsHour* and *Morning Edition* keep our residents informed on issues that directly impact our state.

Beyond education and news, Prairie Public documents North Dakota's history and culture in ways that no other broadcaster does. Their locally produced programs showcase the voices and stories of our communities—ensuring that rural perspectives are preserved and shared. This is an invaluable service, and one that would be at risk if HB 1255 is passed.

Public broadcasting is more than just a television or radio service; it is a bridge that connects rural North Dakota to the rest of the state and the world. Cutting state funding would not only diminish access to these essential resources but would also disproportionately harm small towns and families who rely on Prairie Public for lifelong learning and engagement.

I urge you to vote **against** HB 1255 and to continue supporting public broadcasting in North Dakota. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Megan Langley
Souris, ND